

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A catalyst for purifying exhaust gases, comprising:  
a first ~~rhodium-containing catalyst layer~~ that includes a rhodium-containing catalyst and  
is deposited on a carrier,  
a second ~~zeolite-containing catalyst layer~~ that includes a zeolite-containing catalyst and is  
deposited on the first layer, and  
a third ~~palladium-containing catalyst layer~~ that includes a palladium-containing catalyst  
and is deposited on the second layer.
2. (Original) A catalyst according to claim 1, wherein the carrier is a monolith carrier or granular carrier.
3. (Original) A catalyst according to claim 1, wherein the rhodium is deposited as dispersed in a refractory inorganic powder.
4. (Currently amended) A catalyst according to claim 3, wherein the refractory inorganic ~~substance~~ powder is at least one member selected from the group consisting of silicon carbide, alumina, titania, silica and mixtures thereof.
5. (Original) A catalyst according to claim 1, wherein the first catalyst layer further contains an oxide made of one member selected from the group consisting of rare earth elements, zirconium and barium.

6. (Original) A catalyst according to claim 1, wherein the zeolite is at least one member selected from the group consisting of ferrierite, MFI zeolite, .beta.-zeolite, Y zeolite, mordenite, and mixtures thereof.

7. (Original) A catalyst according to claim 1, wherein the palladium is deposited as dispersed in a refractory inorganic powder.

8. (Currently amended) A catalyst according to claim 7, wherein the refractory inorganic substance powder is at least one member selected from the group consisting of silicon carbide, alumina, titania, silica and mixtures thereof.

9. (Original) A catalyst according to claim 1, wherein the third catalyst layer further contains an oxide made of one member selected from the group consisting of rare earth elements, zirconium and barium.

10. (Original) A catalyst according to claim 1, wherein the catalyst contains 10-120 g of the first catalyst layer, 60-300 g of the second catalyst layer, and 20-100 g of the third catalyst layer, per 1 liter of the catalyst.

11. (Original) A catalyst according to claim 1, wherein the catalyst contains 90-520 g of the 1-3 catalyst layers, per 1 liter of the catalyst.

12. (Original) A catalyst according to claim 1 further comprising a fourth catalyst layer containing at least one member selected from the group consisting of platinum, rhodium and mixtures thereof deposited on the third layer.

13. (Withdrawn) A process for purifying exhaust gases discharged from an internal combustion engine, which comprises: contacting the gas with a catalyst set forth in claim 1.

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14. (Original) A catalyst system for purifying exhaust gases comprising: a catalyst set forth in claim 1, arranged at a down stream side of the gases, and a three-way catalyst arranged at an upper stream side of the gases.